

From: Shawn Garvin/R3/USEPA/US
Sent: 9/18/2012 5:11:22 PM
To: Ron Borsellino/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
CC: William Early/R3/USEPA/US
Subject: Re: NRDC blog: Blog: Is Dimock's Water Really Safe? One Federal Health Agency Is Not So Sure

Thanks

Sent by EPA Wireless E-Mail Services

----- Original Message -----

From: Ron Borsellino
Sent: 09/18/2012 05:06 PM EDT
To: Shawn Garvin
Cc: William Early
Subject: Fw: NRDC blog: Blog: Is Dimock's Water Really Safe? One Federal Health Agency Is Not So Sure

Shawn: when we discussed the blog yesterday, I didn't know it was another one. The one I was referring to is linked below.

Blog: Shale Gas Review

Post: Federal health officials to assess Dimock pollution risk Probe follows positive tests by EPA for hazards in aquifer

Link: <http://tomwilber.blogspot.com/2012/09/federal-health-officials-to-assess.html>

Ex. 5 - Deliberative

Ron

Ron Borsellino
Director
Hazardous Site Cleanup Division

----- Forwarded by Ron Borsellino/R3/USEPA/US on 09/18/2012 05:04 PM -----

From: Lora Werner/R3/USEPA/US
To: Ron Borsellino/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Robert Helverson/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, "Karl V Markiewicz" <KMarkiewicz@cdc.gov>
Date: 09/18/2012 04:55 PM
Subject: Fw: NRDC blog: Blog: Is Dimock's Water Really Safe? One Federal Health Agency Is Not So Sure

Hi, Ron

This is a 2nd recent online blog article referring to ATSDR's Health Consultation review in progress on the Dimock site. The 1st one was by blogger Tom Wilbur, and this 2nd one is by the NRDC. This NRDC one quotes extensively from ATSDR's December 2011 AROA review for this site, as well as referencing the information provided by ATSDR/CDC in our interview for the 1st one w/Tom Wilbur. We were not interviewed for this 2nd NRDC blog article.

Ex. 5 - Deliberative

Ex. 5 - Deliberative

Lora

Sent by ATSDR/CDC care of EPA Wireless E-Mail Services

----- Original Message -----

From: Roy Seneca

Sent: 09/17/2012 08:10 AM EDT

To: Richard Rupert; Lora Werner; Terri-A White; Jennie Saxe; Laura Mohollen; Richard Fetzer; Helen Duteau; Trish Taylor; David Polish; Richard Sumter; Karl Markiewicz

Subject: NRDC blog: Blog: Is Dimock's Water Really Safe? One Federal Health Agency Is Not So Sure

Blog: Is Dimock's Water Really Safe? One Federal Health Agency Is Not So Sure It looks like the federal government is still concerned about the water in Dimock, PA. Although it's been a few months since the EPA declared Dimock drinking water safe despite potentially explosive levels of methane it found in the water of several Dimock homes, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) recently confirmed that it is continuing to investigate the potential long term exposure risks of showering, drinking, bathing, and washing with Dimock water. The ATSDR an independent agency under the Department of Health and Human Services and the principal federal public health agency involved with hazardous waste issues began investigating water quality late last year, shortly after the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) allowed the Cabot Oil and Gas Corporation to stop daily deliveries of fresh water to local residents. DEP had previously determined that Cabot was responsible for contaminating Dimock water with methane from its fracking operations, and tests conducted by both DEP and Cabot had shown that the water also contained pollutants like arsenic; barium; bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, a plasticizer commonly called DEHP; glycol compounds, manganese, phenol, and sodium. ATSDR's initial report from December 2011 expressed concerns about the reliability of methane removal systems offered by Cabot to Dimock residents as part of a settlement agreement with DEP, and the presence of other contaminants besides methane (metals, volatile organics and non-naturally occurring organics) for which the well treatment systems are not designed or in place to address. That report also recommended that: A full public health evaluation should be conducted on the data from the site area. Because many of these compounds (e.g., metals) affect the same organ systems, ATSDR recommends evaluating the mixture for public health impacts using computational techniques or other suitable methods to evaluate the potential for synergistic actions: The cumulative concentration of all dissolved combustible gases should be considered to protect against the buildup of explosive atmospheres in all wells in the area. According to this recommendation, the agency is continuing to pursue a fairly comprehensive review of Dimock water quality, which will include review of earlier tests conducted by DEP and Cabot as well as EPA's recent test results. There is currently no timeframe for the completion of the report. Regardless of what the eventual outcome of the ATSDR investigation will be, one thing remains uncontested by anyone but the gas industry Cabot's drilling activities contaminated Dimock drinking water. Thankfully, at least one government agency is devoting the time and resources to determine whether that water still poses an ongoing threat to the health of Dimock residents.

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